

than willing to punt to the President the decision about lifting the debt ceiling, even though the law that we have puts that responsibility on Congress. It's reckless and it's unnecessary.

Second, there is an abuse of power. You know, the American public overwhelmingly wants a balanced solution with a little bit of revenue increase, maybe taking some unjustified tax loopholes, not slashing budgets unilaterally. They want a balanced approach. But my Republican friends, having taken control of one Chamber, now think that they ought to be able to dictate to the other body, dictate to the President of the United States, have it their way or the highway. It's not what the American public wants. It's not what should happen in our system of democracy, where there should be some give-and-take and some compromise.

But no, what we're seeing is an unfortunate abuse of power on the part of some people who are willing to take hostage the debt ceiling negotiation and risk economic damage to the United States, to our families, and businesses.

And third, it is a case of hypocrisy. You know, the Republican plan, the so-called Cut, Cap, and Balance—and they passed it last week on the floor of the House—would require cutting spending for the government to 18 percent of the overall economy. Interesting number. Ronald Reagan never even proposed a budget that was less than 21 percent.

They're talking about draconian cuts to things that the American public relies upon—everything from food safety to infrastructure to education. But when the time came to vote for it, this week, they voted "no" on an amendment that would have implemented that type of cut.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Oregon has expired.

TRADE AGREEMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JENKINS. Where is the President's plan?

If I had a nickel for every time I have heard that question, we would be much closer to resolving our debt crisis. But the President and my friends across the aisle have still not answered the most important question of all: Where is their plan for job creation?

House Republicans have a plan. At the core of this plan is passing the three pending trade agreements. These trade agreements have the ability to immediately create thousands of jobs, open new markets for our farmers, ranchers, and manufacturers, and to play a pivotal role in growing our economy. Yet, the President continues to stand in the way.

These agreements create jobs, period. So let's pass these agreements with South Korea, Colombia, and Panama. Let's reauthorize the GSP and the An-

dean Trade Preference Act and finally fulfill our duty to the American people.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 47 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DOLD) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day. We give You thanks for all people who, through courage and selfless devotion, have carried the banner of righteousness before us and have pointed the way to the high ideals of human dignity that are the handiwork of Your creation. These are our American ancestors.

Bless now the men and women of the people's House. Call forth leaders from their number who understand that courage, exercised in the fulfillment of their legislative responsibilities, might cost them popularity now but reap them praise in the future from our American descendants. May they take solace in knowing that it has always been this way with great leaders.

We thank You for their hard work. Give them the consolation of knowing they will have done their best work for all of our Nation.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LAMBORN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests

for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SUSTAINING NUCLEAR DETERRENCE AFTER NEW START

(Mr. LAMBORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a critical component of America's national security, our nuclear deterrence. Yesterday, the House Armed Services Committee Strategic Forces Subcommittee held a hearing on sustaining nuclear deterrence after New START. This hearing made it absolutely clear that the nuclear policy provisions in the House fiscal year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act are critical to our nuclear deterrence strategy.

The ink was barely dry on the New START Treaty, and the administration was already talking about deeper cuts. We need to slow down and wait for nuclear modernization to catch up to arms control. We must be wary of any further unilateral reductions of the U.S. nuclear deterrent, which is critical to America's defense and that of over 30 of our allies. Congress has an obligation to scrutinize U.S. nuclear policy and force structure to ensure that we have a sustainable and effective deterrent, which is why the House NDAA nuclear policy provisions must become law.

WE DON'T DEFAULT

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Here's what we should do to avoid default: increase the debt ceiling with no strings attached. Here's how to get out of debt: end the wars, save \$1 trillion in 10 years; repeal tax cuts to the wealthy, save another \$1 trillion; Medicare for all, end the \$400 billion yearly subsidies for the health insurance industry; renegotiate trade agreements with workers' rights, human rights, and environmental quality principles to save millions of jobs and billions of dollars.

The Fed creates money out of nothing and gives it to banks. Why should our country go into debt, borrowing money from banks when we have the constitutional power to create money and invest in jobs? We could have another New Deal, putting millions to work, rebuilding America's roads and transportation system. We could have a Works Green Administration where NASA is the incubator of jobs, designing and engineering wind and solar microtechnologies for private sector manufacturing, distribution, installation, and maintenance in millions of homes, saving money and energy and protecting the environment.

We are the United States of America, the greatest country on Earth. We envision wealth; we don't default. We create wealth; we don't default. We build wealth; we don't default.